



A N N U A L R E P O R T

U P O N T H E

P U B L I C H E A L T H

A N D

S A N I T A R Y A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

O F T H E

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F A B E R G A V E N N Y

F O R T H E

Y E A R 1 9 6 8

*

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

Medical Officer of Health No. 10 Area



ACCL BY

MAC
12/8/69

ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the
Abergavenny Rural District Council

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Abergavenny.

More than three generations ago far-seeing and forward thinking pioneers were stressing the extent to which the health of each individual is governed by the general health of the community. As a result, we have had a gradual evolution of vast public health services which still function with varying degrees of efficiency throughout the country. Among the more important of these services that contribute to healthier living are the group we regard as the environmental services. These include the provision of decent housing, pure water supplies, adequate sewage and refuse disposal ; proper supervision of food and many amenities which help to make life pleasanter as well as healthier. Some of them have become so conveniently a part of our daily lives that we tend to forget their health value. If the water is cut off or the refuse vehicle breaks down and fails to call, our first thought is of the inconvenience and not of the danger to health. Yet, with the present degree of urbanisation illness would soon prevail in their absence.

Another outstanding feature of this century has been the steady evolution of personal health services with their roots in the Poor Law and the ceaseless activities of voluntary organisations. Since the 1946 National Health Service Act became operative in 1948 these services have been provided by the Local Health Authorities and include :-

Health Visiting
Infant Welfare and care of mothers
Cytology
Day Nurseries
Home Nursing
Home Helps
Vaccination and Immunisation
Care and after-care services
Mental Welfare
Ambulance services
Health Centres.

These services, together with medicine in general have progressed so far that many of the one time fatal infectious diseases are now under control. Their success has resulted in the emergence of a new pattern of disease - the Cardio-vacular group ; all forms of Carcinoma ; Diabetis mellitus ; Bronchitis etc. These diseases are characterised by slow progression and are predominantly degenerative. If not always preventable, their onset can often be delayed but we do need to know more about their natural history.

As already mentioned, the present system of individual and community medical care has evolved slowly over the past century culminating in the National Health Service Act 1946. This Act was designed to provide a comprehensive medical service for everyone in this country and has been operating for 20 years. It is now generally felt that some of these services are more suited to the problems of the past rather than the present. Others can be improved although, in the main the quality of personal service has been satisfactory. It appears that the scene is set for a change in the general administration and organisational structure of our three-tiered system of National Health Service. We have recently been showered with a series of Commissions and Reports. One of these the Green Paper was produced in 1968 and after numerous meetings and discussions up and down the country, nationally and locally, one is tempted to say "How green was the paper in my valley". The single tier system portrayed in this paper has since been universally thrown into the waste paper basket and a two-tier system suggested in its place. On the other hand, the Seebohm Report in particular, seems unfortunately to advocate the undesirable separation of social work from health services with far too little stress on health and medical problems. The Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government is still to come.

Whatever the outcome, the patient must be the key figure and one sincerely hopes that there will be continued steady evolution and not an explosive revolution.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



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VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	62,685
Population	10,070
Number of Inhabited Houses (According to Rate Book 31/12/67)	2,873
Rateable Value	£180,180
1d. Rate	711

<u>1968</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births :</u>			
Legitimate	76	52	128
Illegitimate	11	4	15
	—	—	—
	87	56	143
<u>Live Birth Rate :</u>			
Per 1,000 population	Rural District	County	E. & W.
	14.2	17.1	16.9
Comparability Factor 1.1			
<u>Adjusted Live Birth Rate</u> $14.2 \times 1.2 =$	<u>17.04</u>	<u>17.44</u>	
<u>Still Births :</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
<u>Still Birth Rate :</u>			
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Rural District	County	E. & W.
	7.0	17.92	14.0
Per 1,000 Population	0.1	0.31	
<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	96	92	188
Death Rate per 1,000 population			
	Rural District	County	E. & W.
	18.7	12.22	11.9
Comparability Factor	0.53		
Adjusted Death Rate	$18.7 \times 0.53 = 9.91$	13.68	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Death from Cancer (all forms)	16	13	29
Deaths from lung cancer	4	4	8
Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			Nil
Maternal Death Rate (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	Rural District	County	
	0	0.65	

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Infant Mortality	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 total Live Births)	Nil	18.74	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate - first 4 weeks	Nil	13.76	12.3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	Nil	11.27	10.5
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and Infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	7	28.99	25.0

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny Rural District (1959 - 1968)

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still Births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1968	-	1	7
1967	2	1	21.7
1966	3	4	48.95
1965	2	7	51.7
1964	2	2	28
1963	-	-	-
1962	4	1	42.55
1961	2	1	28.99
1960	1	7	56.7
1959	2	2	32.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1959-1968)

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and Monmouthshire County

YEAR	ABERGAVENNY BOROUGH	ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT	MONMOUTHSHIRE
1968	53.6	7	28.99
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	51.7	35.98
1964	57 .8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	-	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0
1959	23.9	32.0	47.7



<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	S	E	X
Syphilis and its Sequelae	1	-	
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	-	
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	4	4	
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	3	
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus		2	
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	10	4	
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	-	
Mental Disorders	1	1	
Other Diseases of Nervous System Etc.	-	1	
Hypertensive Disease	1	3	
Ischaemic Heart Disease	30	30	
Other forms of Heart Disease	1	5	
Cerebro-vascular Disease	16	24	
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	4	
Pneumonia	8	4	
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	-	
Asthma	1	-	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	-	2	
Symptoms and ill-defined Conditions	-	1	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	
All other Accidents	3	1	
All other External Causes	-	1	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	96	92	



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (1968)

(Classified according to sex and age)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Sex</u>	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 plus	Total
Whooping Cough	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	M	13	1	1	0	0	0	15
	F	8	4	1	0	0	0	13
Scarlet Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	M	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentry	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Abortus Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified Deaths	Pulmonary	M3	F2	Non Pulmonary	M0	F1
	Pulmonary	M1	F1	Non Pulmonary	M0	F0

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Numbers Vaccinated

Age Groups	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Under 1 year	44	46	37	60	50	40	4	1	1	0	3	-
1-4 years	12	6	18	13	40	158	7	31	31	67	11	35
5-14 years	6	5	9	0	8	667	3	1	1	1	1	-
15 years plus	28	14	8	2	4	1453	1	0	0	6	0	1
	90	71	72	75	102	2318	15	33	33	74	15	36

In addition there were 8 re-vaccinations against smallpox.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH
AND TETANUS

Numbers Immunised

Age Groups	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	
Under 5 years	Dip	141	77	112	39	70	137	88	83	99	119	147	139	61
	Whc			54		80	114	80	84	88	118	147	139	59
	Tet						128	85	90	89	107	150	146	61
5-14 years	Dip	58	5	205	3	48	8	3	5	7	13	9	21	6
	Whc					4	1	0	0	4	10	9	5	-
	Tet						7	1	7	3	19	43	22	18
Totals	Dip	199	82	317	42	118	145	91	88	106	132	156	160	67
	Whc			54		84	115	80	84	92	128	156	144	59
	Tet						135	86	97	92	126	193	168	79

In addition to the above, 157 children were given "Booster" diphtheria prophylactic injections, 101 "Booster" Whooping Cough injections and 160 "Booster" Tetanus injections.



ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman & Members of the Abergavenny R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

The main functions of the Public Health Inspector's office can be summarised under the following headings :-

Housing (including improvement grants)
Refuse Collection and Disposal
Sewers and Sewage Works Maintenance and
General Public Health Work.

In some previous years I have had to report to you that one or other of these functions had been concentrated on because of some pressing problem, which was usually one of organisation or administration. Such a concentration of effort has not been apparent to any extent this year but a high level of activity, inherent in an office where so many diversified functions are focused, continues with good progress being made in all directions.

Some of the items reported on show a nil or negative return or alternatively a very low level of activity and these are often items which are required to be included for the consideration of some government department. However, it must be remembered that a nil or negative report often results from and indicates that suitable preventative measures have been in operation for some considerable time. Relax or remove these measures and you face the prospect of something more than a nil return.

An aspect of rural life which has caused me special concern during the year is the one of private water supplies. The report on water supplies shows that just less than 75% of the dwellings within the district have a mains piped supply of water. This supply is generally constant, sufficient, and suitable in quality as the result of considerable efforts, in various directions, by this Council who are the water undertakers. Within the next year or so the remainder of the proposed extensions to the distributive system will have taken place but it cannot be expected that the proportion of dwellings served by private supplies will be much reduced below the figure of 25%. This residual will persist well into the foreseeable future as it represents those widely spaced or isolated dwellings which it is not practical or economical to lay mains to.

Due to local geological conditions these private water supplies are usually derived from a spring which can be quite a considerable distance from the house. A spring, unlike a well, has no "built in" storage system and has to be collected and stored. After a period of low rainfall they can dry up and after heavy rain can become badly polluted. It is not uncommon to find that some of these supplies were installed up to 100 years ago and have not been improved upon since. They invariably fall below what is an accepted and desirable standard of purity.



Investigating these supplies and suggesting suitable improvements although time consuming is a relatively simple technical matter. My concern, however, is that effecting these improvements can be a very costly business and unless the work is carried out as part of an improvement grant scheme there is no financial assistance available to the owner towards improving this basic feature of environmental health.

These supplies are in the circumstances indispensable and, when suitably improved, entirely satisfactory and so it would appear to be in the public interest that they be improved. The more I meet with this problem the more I am convinced that it calls out, and deserves to be singled out, for special financial assistance.

There seems little that this authority can do on its own but as this cannot be purely a local problem perhaps we can look forward to some government action in this direction.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and the Council for their confidence, support and encouragement and also the Clerk and other colleagues for their valuable help and assistance.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

T. GREGORY

Public Health Inspector.



I N D E X

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- 11. Animal Boarding Establishments, 1963.
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- 12. Factories Act, 1961.
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 - 14. Unsound Food.
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- 15. Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.
- 15. Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations.
- Housing :-
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 - 16. Improvement Grants.
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- 17. Public Health Act, 1936.
- 17. Nuisances.
- 17. Rodent Control and Disinfestation.
- 18. Refuse Collection and Disposal.
- 19. Sewage and Sewage Disposal.
- 21. Slaughter Houses.
- 21. Water Supplies.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

Licences, containing conditions, were issued in respect of two premises and these are found generally to be satisfactory. In total 32 dogs and 3 cats are catered for.

CARAVAN SITES.

25 Site licences were issued in conjunction with temporary planning consents in respect of residential sites containing one caravan. Most of these temporary consents have been renewed yearly for quite a few years and moves were made this year to have these planning consents made permanent or withdrawn. One site holds a permanent licence for 4 residential caravans and another for one caravan only.

Four sites are permanently licensed for six months of the year for holiday caravans, the sites containing 4, 7, 8 and 25 caravans respectively. A further three sites are licensed annually for holiday use for 5, 5 and 15 caravans respectively although the last site has never been developed.

Conditions generally on the sites are good although complaints are received from time to time from both residents and the general public and these are generally dealt with by reference to the licence conditions.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles.

The problem of abandoned motor cars is not one which affected this district very much up to recent years. However, the introduction of this new Act seemed to coincide with a rash of derelict and abandoned vehicles. In a few cases where it was not possible to trace the owners the vehicles were removed and disposed of by the Council. In the majority of cases, the owners themselves were made to remove them after disposal facilities had been made available for them. No legal action was taken.

Bulky Domestic Refuse & Abandoned Rubbish.

Suitable arrangements to deal with these problems were in force before the commencement of the Act and these arrangements are publicised regularly in the local press. No charge is made for the removal of any domestic rubbish. Nevertheless it is found that large bulky items are still being abandoned throughout the district.

As a large part of this district falls within the National Park area the depositing of rubbish and old motor cars is of special concern. Close co-operation with the National Parks Warden is essential to combat the problem and I am grateful for the energies expended in this direction by the Warden.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

A total of 16 premises were registered as factories during the year, plus 8 building sites and works of engineering construction which ranked as factories. In all cases these were factories in which only Section 7 of the Act (the provision of sanitary conveniences) is enforced by the Local Authority.

Action Taken.

No written notices were served in respect of defective or insufficient sanitary conveniences, but in two cases defective sanitary conveniences were remedied as a result of informal action, and in 3 cases sanitary conveniences were made to be provided on building sites.

Outworkers.

4 Persons were notified as outworkers, these being engaged in knitted woollens and dressmaking.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	nil	nil	nil	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	16	7	nil	nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	12	9	nil	nil
Total :	28	16	nil	nil

100
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2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
) Making, etc. Wearing) Cleaning apparel) and) Washing	4	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Unsound Food

No unfit food was condemned during the year. A small quantity of unsound food (tinned meat and tinned fruit) was voluntarily surrendered.

Food Hygiene

Visits of Inspection :

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits	No. of warnings verbal and written	No. of Infringements
Grocers	24	10	5	15
Other Food Premises	3	6	4	9
Ice-Cream Premises	31	16	-	-
Cafes	2	5	1	3
Street Vendors	10	3	2	12
Licensed Clubs	3	1	-	-
Licensed Premises	32	27	22	64
	105	68	34	103

Food Hygiene

Visits of Inspection (Continued) :

	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash- hand basins, etc.)	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies (Sinks, etc.)	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 (Sinks, etc.)
Grocers	24	24	24
Ice-Cream Premises	31	-	-
Cafes	2	2	2
Licensed Clubs	2	3	3
Licensed Premises	26	32	32
Other Food Premises	3	3	3

In addition to the above visits 12 food stalls were inspected at the Abergavenny & Border Counties Show. Conditions generally were satisfactory and showed a considerable improvement.

As street traders do not have to be registered it is an extremely difficult task to keep track of all those that do from time to time operate within the district and one can only rely upon meeting them in one's travels.

Poultry Inspection. There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1952.

There are no premises registered in the area for the manufacture of ice-cream. The 34 registered premises sell pre-packed ice-cream. Three street traders are known to operate within the district. Two of these sell loose ice-cream, which is manufactured outside the district, and one sells soft ice-cream frozen on the vehicle. No samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are 12 producer/distributors in the area and these dairies are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. A further 5 retailers are licensed by the County Council.

No milk samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis during the year.

H O U S I N G

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1) (a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	...	118
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	323
(2)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	13

II. Action under the Statutory Powers

Proceedings taken under Sections 9 to 16,
Housing Act, 1957

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	3
(b)	Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	3
(c)	Number of Closing Orders made	...	Nil
(d)	Number of Demolition Orders made	...	1
(e)	Number of unfit houses demolished	...	Nil
(f)	Number of unfit houses on which undertakings were accepted	...	8
(g)	Number of unfit houses subject to change of use	...	Nil

Improvement Grants

(1) Standard Grants :

(a)	Number of applications received during the year	...	12
(b)	Number of applications approved during the year	...	12
(c)	Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
(d)	Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	...	£2,640. 0. 0.
(e)	Number of cases in which work was completed	...	7
(f)	Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	...	£1,416. 10. 0.

(2) Discretionary Grants :

(a)	Number of applications received during the year	...	7
(b)	Number of applications approved during the year	...	6
(c)	Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	1
(d)	Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	...	£2,335. 0. 0.
(e)	Number of cases where work was completed during the year	...	10
(f)	Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	...	£3,831. 0. 0.

The interest shown in grant-aided works of improvement remains very poor, in view of the general character of houses within the district. It is hoped that the impending housing survey, which will cover all of the properties likely to be in need of improvement, will provide the necessary information to assist in launching an "improve your house" campaign.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises		
	Registered during year	Total Registered at end of year	Receiving a general Inspection during the year
Offices	1	2	2
Retail Shops	-	5	4
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the Public and Canteens	1	10	10
Totals	2	17	16

Total Number of Visits to Registered Premises : 28

No great difficulties have been experienced in implementing this still comparatively new Act and co-operation from the owners continues to be good.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Most of the activities of this department covered by the Public Health Act, 1936, have sufficient content to be dealt with in detail under their separate headings.

Nuisances

Very few complaints were received during the year involving Statutory Nuisances, and these were settled without resorting to formal action.

RODENT CONTROL AND OTHER DISINFESTATION

This work, in respect of Council property and dwelling houses, is carried out by a Private Contractor under contract but in order to give a more complete picture of rodent control work in the district, I have included the contractor's work in connection with business and agricultural premises.

Rat activity in sewers remains at a very low level.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1.a. Total Number of properties in district	* 3,695	
b. Agricultural properties		538
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	703	56
b. Number infested by (i) Rats (ii)Mice	472 37	56 20
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	214	93
b. Number infested by (i) Rats (ii)Mice	159 -	93 29
4. Total No. of Treatments carried out including re-treatments	813	198

* This figure includes all agricultural properties.

Other Disinfestation

Six of the 24 houses treated over the last three years for cockroach infestation had to be treated again this year. Although this means that the problem has not been finally solved it can be said that the new methods being used are substantially effective.

The houses in the district remain substantially free from insect infestation although our contractor is called upon to deal occasionally with complaints of cluster flies, wasps, bees and even bats.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Most of the rural district is covered by the Council's collection scheme, which is under the control of the Public Health Inspector.

The collection, which is a kerbside one, is carried out weekly in most parts of the district with just three difficult or isolated small areas being served fortnightly. Most of the tipping is done at Govilon but the Council retain the use of two smaller sites at Llanvihangel Crucorney and Croes Hywel.

The joint committee on refuse disposal set up in 1967 by the Abergavenny Borough Council, Crickhowell Rural District Council and this Council to consider alternative means of disposal on a joint basis have made good progress. Agreement in principle on the choice of a pulverisation plant and also on a suitable site was reached and three selected firms were asked to submit fixed price tenders for the supply and erection of a suitable plant.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the populated parts of the district are sewered, 1,764 houses being connected to a main sewer. The remaining properties in the area, being farms and isolated cottages and hamlets, are served by septic tanks, earth and chemical closets. It is estimated that there are upwards of 1,000 septic tanks in the area, including 430 receiving farm drainage. These figures are not likely to be substantially reduced in the future and represent a residual of properties which it is not possible to put on main drainage. Future action in this direction continues to be in the nature of protecting streams from pollution and improving the size, construction and means of drainage of the older types of tanks. Complaints concerning nuisances caused by septic tanks are few but there are a surprisingly large number of requests from owners for information and advice.

Two men are employed full-time on the maintenance of the sewage works.

In the cases of Grosmont, Pandy, Llanddewi Rhydderch, Llanover, Llanarth, Llanellen, Bryn, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Great Oak and Mardy, the means of disposal is through traditional sewage disposal works. On small Council housing sites septic tanks and tipper filters are used.

Govilon is connected to the sewage works owned by and situated within the area of the Crickhowell Rural District Council. Llanfoist is connected to the Abergavenny Borough sewage works.

At the Mardy, Pandy, Grosmont and Great Oak works the sewage sludge is semi-dried on special beds and then dug out and removed from the site for final disposal. At the remaining works sludge removal and disposal is by means of a liquid sludge tanker vehicle which in previous years was carried out under a private contract arrangement, but which is now done by this Council's newly acquired tanker. The use of this tanker should result in a much improved standard of maintenance at the various sewage disposal works.

With the exception of the Great Oak Works, the treated sewage is disposed of into water courses and the quality of such effluents is controlled by the appropriate River Authority. There was a considerable improvement in the quality of the effluents over previous years but there still remains room for improvement in this direction. The success of my experiments in 1967 with a simple form of mechanical flocculator have borne the test of a further year but no new devices were fitted this year. I am working towards having a form of mechanical flocculator fitted into the primary and humus tanks of a number of works during the coming year.

The scheme to improve the sewerage and disposal systems at Llanover was completed during the year and the work was started in December.

Consideration is still being given as to the best means of providing, for the first time, a sewerage scheme for the village of Brynygwenin and to improving the Llanvapley disposal arrangements. The extension of the Pandy sewer to Llanvihangel Crucorney was nearly completed during the year and most of the houses were connected to the main sewer.

DETAILS OF HOUSES CONNECTED TO A MAIN SEWER					
PARISH	WARD	No. of Houses	**	No. of Houses connected to a main sewer	REMARKS
Abergavenny Rural		71		9	
Llanddewi Skirrid		34			
Crucorney Fawr	Llanvihangel Crucorney	217		89	Main sewer nearing completion.
	Oldcastle	9			
	Bwlch Trewyn	24			
	Lower Cwmyoy	45		8	
	Upper Cwmyoy	34			
	Fwthog	12			
Llantilio Pertholey	Fforest (Mardy, Croesonen, Llwynu)	47			Proposals being considered for a new sewerage scheme at Bryngwenin.
	(Remainder)	757		757	
Llanarth Fawr	Llanarth	63		24	Consideration is still being given to improving the Llanvapley disposal arrangements.
	Clytha	64			
	Bryngwyn	81		23	
	Llanvapley	42		8	
	Bettws Newydd	23			
Llanover Fawr	Llanover	124		80	Proposals well advanced for enlarging the Llanover works.
	Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	38			
	Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116		51	
	Llansantffraed	2			
	Llanvair Kilgeddin	83		17	
	Llanddewi Rhydderch	97		21	
Llanfoist Fawr	Llanfoist	253		212	
	Llanellen	*118		47	
	Llanwenarth Citra	86		8	
	Llanwenarth Ultra	407		343	
	Pwlldu	2			
Grosmont Fawr	Grosmont	* 149		63	
	Llangua	23			
	Llangattock				
	Lingoed	36			
	Llanvetherine	37		4	
		3,343		1,764	

* Approximate figures.

** The figure includes business premises with a flat or living accommodation attached which are not included in the figure for housing stock.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the Rural District. One licensed slaughterman resides within the area.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Council's own supplies for the Rural District are at Llanover, Tyn-y-wern, Llanthony and Grosmont ; a large proportion of the district is supplied from these four sources. The source of supply in all cases is a spring and the water is settled and chlorinated, but not filtered, before being distributed.

The chlorinating apparatus at Llanover and Tyn-y-wern is of the chlorine gas type, manually controlled and at Grosmont and Llanthony a liquid chlorine drip feed is used. The chlorine dose is set in conjunction with a residual chlorine test which should be carried out daily.

The supply to the Govilon area is supplemented by water from the Abertillery and District Water Board and the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board ; the latter board also supplements the Llanover supply and the Abertillery and District Water Board supplies water to the Fforest area. The supply to the Llwynu and Croesonnen housing estates is from the Abergavenny Borough mains.

A new main to Pen-y-val, from the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board main at Llanellen, was installed in 1965 and the continuation of this main through to the Rural District of Monmouth was practically completed during the year. This new main and the various branch mains will serve parts of the rural area at present without a main supply and will also improve the mains supply in other areas.

During the year, the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination :-

Source	Raw Water		Treated Water	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Main Piped Supplies	0	0	34	14
Private Wells & Springs	3	17	0	0

Source	<u>MAIN PIPED SUPPLIES</u>	
	UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES OF TREATED WATER	
Llanover	4	
Tyn-y-wern	3	
Llanthony	5	
Grosmont	2	
Total :	14	

The total includes some samples with very low counts of non-faecal coli and a number of follow-up samples taken to check on the effectiveness of remedial measures taken after a breakdown in chlorination had occurred.

The difficulties involved in maintaining daily control over these four widely spaced manually controlled chlorinating plants are long standing. However during the course of the year the Council appointed a Water Inspector whose duties include direct supervision of these plants and this it is hoped will go a long way towards improving matters.

A sample of water from each of the main supplies was tested for plumbo-solvency and in each case this testing proved negative. From the investigations carried out during the course of this testing it seems doubtful that there is any lead pipe in use in houses connected to the main supplies or indeed anywhere else.

The task of investigating and improving the private supplies to isolated houses continues at a steady pace.

Parish	No. of Houses	Pop.	Ward	No. of Houses	Pop.	Direct to Houses		Stand Pipes	
						Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.
Abergavenny Rural	* 71	1,268		71	1,268	* 29	1,120		
Llantidow Skirrid	34	100		34	100	12	36		New main now available
Crucorney Fawr	341	875	Llanvihangel Oldcastle	215	552	143	371		
			Bwlch Trewny	9	23				
			Lower Cwmoy	24	63				
			Upper Cwmoy	45	117	13	35		
			Ffwrhog	34	89				
				12	31				
Llantilio Portholey	1,053	3,232	All Wards except Forest	1,006	3,083	994	3,059		
			Fforest	47	149	7	23		
Llanarth Fawr	273	828	Llanarth	67	198	53	155		
			Clytha	64	202	42	130		
			Bryngwyn	79	233	53	164		
			Llanvapley	41	127	31	96	1	
			Bettws Newydd	22	68	17	53	2	
Llanover Fawr	460	1,294	Llanover	124	350	153	302		
			Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	39	113	33	96		
			Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116	305	100	255		
			Llansantffraed	2	6	2	6		
			Llanvair Kilgeddin	83	241	69	198		
			Llanddewi Rhydderch	96	279	81	233		
			Llanfoist	253	704	230	632		
			Llancollen	118	328	89	243		
			Llanwenarth Citra	86	249	69	210		
			Llanwenarth Ultra	407	1,110	366	986		
			Pwlldu	2	8	2	8		
			Grosmont	149	419	87	244		
			Llangaua	23	68	-	-		
			Llanvetherine	37	109	19	57		
			Llangattock Lingoed	36	106	-	-		
Totals :	3,343	10,698		3,341	10,698	2,694	8,712	2	3

* Includes Pen-y-val Hospital

